

Message Text

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ACTION EA-13

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ADP-00 PM-03 L-02 NSC-10 NSCE-00 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 RSR-01 PRS-01 USIA-04

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R 281052Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6074

INFO AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

CINCPAC

USSAG NKP

13TH ADVON UDORN

FBIS WASHDC

USLO PEKING BY POUCH

S E C R E T BANGKOK 13423

LIMDIS

EO 10152: GDS

TAGS: PFORN TH, CH

SUBJECT: DISCUSSIONS OF THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN
CHINA

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: A. BANGKOK 13344 (NOTAL); B. FBIS BANGKOK D280200, AUG 73
(NOTAL)

1. A SENIOR THAI FOREIGN MINISTRY (MFA) OFFICIAL IN
AN AUGUST 28 DISCUSSION WITH THE POLITICAL COUNSELOR, SHED SOME
ADDITIONAL LIGHT ON THE AUGUST 7-21 VISIT OF THE THAI BADMINTON
TEAM TO THE PRC (REFTEL A). HE SAID THAT THE MFA OFFICIALS
WHO ACCOMPANIED THE TEAM HAD EXTENSIVE AND CORDIAL CONVER-
SATIONS AT A HIGH LEVEL--THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE POLITICAL
DEPARTMENT--WITH PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS IN PEKING.

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THE DISCUSSIONS WERE BROKEN UP INTO THREE SESSIONS AND TOTALED

NINE HOURS.

2. HE SAID THAT THE THAI HAD REAISED THE ISSUE OF CHINESE SUPPORT FOR THE THAI INSURGENCY. THE CHINESE GAVE THE SAME RESPONSE AS THEY HAD IN JUNE; THAT THE CHINESE COMMUNIST PARTY AND NOT THE PRC HAD DEALINGS WITH THE INSURGENTS. THIS TIME THEY BROUGHT UP THAI SUPPORT FOR "KMT OPERATIONS AGAINST CHINA". THE IMPLICATION WAS THAT BOTH SIDES WERE THEREFORE EVEN.

3. THE EMBASSY OFFICER ASKED ABOUT THE VALIDITY, IN THE AUGUST 28 ISSUE OF THE NATION NEWSPAPER, OF AN ARTICLE ENTITLED: "PAEN REPORTS: U.S. MILITARY BASES DON'T WORRY CHINA" (REFERENCE B). THE ARTICLE MENTIONS THAT DIRECTOR GENERAL PAEN WANAMAETHI OF THE MFA'S POLITICAL DEPARTMENT, WHO HAD ACCOMPANIED THE BADMINTON TEAM TO CHINA, HAD STATED AUGUST 27 THAT CHINA HAD NOT EXPRESSED ANY UNEASINESS OVER THE AMERICAN MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND. THE MFA OFFICIAL CONFIRMED THAT PAEN HAD GIVEN HIM THE SAME INFORMATION.

4. COMMENT: THE REFERENCE TO KMT OPERATIONS AGAINST CHINA MAY MEAN THE IBMND. MOST KMT REMNANTS IN NORTH THAILAND ARE MORE COMMERICALLY THAN POLITICALLY INCLINED, BUT THE THAI TEND TO LUMP ALL NORTH THAILAND'S CHINESE GROUPS, INCLUDING THE IBMND, UNDER THE GENERIC TERM KMT.

5. THE CHINESE REAISED THE ISSUE OF U.S. PRESENCE IN A LOW-KEY MANNER DURING THE LATE JUNE PINGPONG TEAM VISIT TO CHINA. THEIR COMMENT THEN WAS THAT ALTHOUGH THE U.S. MILITARY IN JAPAN WERE THERE FOR JAPAN'S PROTECTION, THE U.S. MILITARY IN THAILAND WERE DIRECTED AGAINST A THIRD COUNTRY. SINCE THE CHINESE DID NOT RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN AUGUST, WE ASSUME THAT THEY DO NOT REGARD IT WITH GREAT CONCERN. THE THEORY THAT THE CHINESE, FEARFUL OF A VACUUM ATTRACTIVE TO THE SOVIETS, WOULD LIKE TO SEE AT LEAST SOME U.S. TROOPS REMAIN IN THAILAND THUS GAINS FURTHER CREDENCE.

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